

Wetland invaders

Intro to invasive species...

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What is a native specie?

- Evolve naturally over thousands of years
- Well adapted to region's climate and soil
- **Coevolved! with the wildlife of the area
- Maintains biological diversity



Why are natives important to wetlands?

- Improved water quality!!



A group of people help to plant new wetland vegetation



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

What is an invasive specie?

- “non-native species that are characterized by aggressive growth patterns, often outcompeting native plants for space, light, nutrients and water.”
 - Northern RI Conservation District
- “able to grow and reproduce quickly throughout a natural area, disrupting habitats and food sources for native plants and the animals dependant upon them.”
 - New England Wildflower Society

Examples in ri's Wetlands/Ponds

- Purple Loosestrife



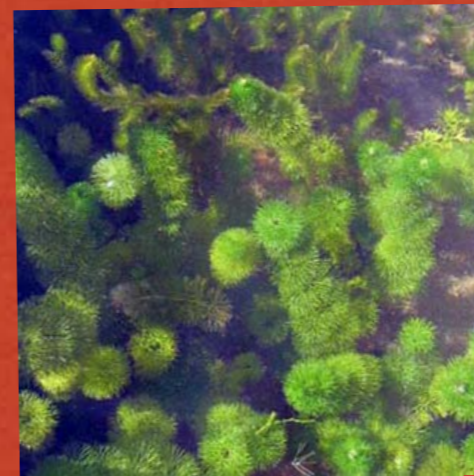
- Common Reed...aka Phragmites



- Variable Milfoil



- Fanwort



Control of invasives

- Education and prevention!!
 - Biological
 - Chemical
 - Mechanical

lessons on invasives

- High School Case Study
 - Affects on ecosystem
 - Method of control pros and cons
 - (biological, chemical, mechanical)
 - Monitoring Program

lessons on invasives

- Elementary/Middle School- “Musical Ecosystem”
 - Students assigned roles
 - Only so many spots (elem.) or niches (m.s.)
 - 1st Round= all natives
 - 2nd Round= intro invasive (continue to add invasives each round)
 - 3rd Round= if invasive loses spot teacher replaces a native with invasive
 - Eventually all/mostly invasive species